REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **4 January 2007**, the Examiner reviewed claims1-33. Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (USPN 6,345,288 hereinafter "Reed"), in view of Bischoff et al. (USPN 6,718,377 hereinafter "Bischoff").

Examiner's Response

Examiner's response to the previous office action is directed towards distribution of a communications object as taught by Reed. Furthermore, Examiner appears to equate the communications object with a data transfer session object as taught by the present invention.

Applicant respectfully points out that the communications object differs from the data transfer session object. The communications object controls all communication between two components (see Reed, col. 17, lines 29-32). Furthermore, each system requires a communications object to facilitate communication (see Reed, FIG. 1).

In contrast, the present invention teaches two separate components, a data object, and a data transfer session object. The data object facilitates communication between two entities by accessing a set of universal interfaces (see page 14, paragraph [0037], lines 25-31 of the instant application). An entity can then use the data object to obtain a data transfer session object, which is optimized to transfer data with a specific entity (see page 10, paragraph [0031], lines 7-10, and page 15, paragraph [0039], lines 23-page 16, line 2 of the instant application). This is advantageous because it frees an entity from storing communication with each entity that it communicates with. Furthermore, a third-party system can use the data objects of two entities to obtain a data transfer session object and facilitate communication between two entities (see FIG. 7, and page 23, paragraphs [0052]-[0053] of the instant application). This enables entities, such

as a facsimile machine or printer, that do not have the capabilities or resources, such as a sufficiently advanced processor or large enough memory, to use data transfer session objects to facilitate communication and the transfer of data.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 23, and 30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Reed in view of Bischoff. Applicant respectfully points out that the combined system of Reed and Bischoff teaches an automated communications system that facilitates transferring data between databases (see Reed, Abstract). Furthermore, the combined system of Reed and Bischoff teaches a provider computer and a consumer computer communicating directly with each other in order to maintain a communications control structure (see Reed, col. 8, lines 6-10). Moreover, the data is transferred through a communications network that facilitates direct communication between the provider computer and the consumer computer (see Reed, col. 8, lines 20-25, and FIG. 1).

In contrast, the present invention teaches communicating via Data Transfer Session Objects (DTSOs) (see page 10, paragraph [0031], lines 7-10, and page 19, paragraph [0043], lines 19-23 of the instant application). These DTSOs enable devices that use different communications protocols to communicate with each other (see page 3, paragraph [0009] of the instant application). Furthermore, devices that do not typically have memory to accept and use a DTSO, can transfer the DTSO to a third party that can facilitate communication between the devices. For example, using the present invention, a printer can communicate with a server by having each device send a DTSO to a third-party system that facilitates communication between the printer and the server (see page 22, paragraph [0051], see page 23, paragraph [0052], see page 23, paragraph [0053], lines 17-20, and see FIG. 7 of the instant application).

There is nothing within Reed or Bischoff, either separately or in concert, that teaches sending a DTSO to an intermediary device to facilitate communication between two devices.

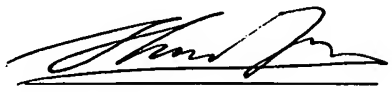
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 23, and 30 to clarify that the present invention uses a second component as an intermediary that facilitates communication between a first component and one of a plurality components. These amendments find support in paragraphs [0009], [0031], [0043], and [0051]-[0053] of the instant application. No new matter has been added.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, 12, 19, 23, and 30 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-7, which depend upon claim 1, claims 9-11, which depend upon claim 8, claims 13-18, which depend upon claim 12, claims 20-22, which depend upon claim 19, claims 24-29, which depend upon claim 23, and claims 31-33, which depend upon claim 30, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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